

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

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SOURCE:

On 6 May 1953, a conference of members of the East German radio and telecommunications industry (RFT) was held at the Jaegerhof, 17 Hain Strasse, Leipzig. A report on this conference follows.

1. Receiver Types

- a. Under the chairmanship of Riemann, assisted by Bless, the former research director of the RFT (Radio and Telecommunications Industry), the types of receivers to be suggested for 1954/55 production were discussed. As few different types of receivers as possible are to be produced.
- b. A single-circuit receiver similar to 1 U [not clear in original] 16 is to be kept on in the production program. The suggestion to equip it with a UKW (ultra-short wave) section was not approved. The price of the receiver would be about 80 DME.
- c. The "Oberhof" receiver is to be improved as a small super (Kleinsuper). It is to be built as a 6-circuit receiver with medium and short wave. The cost is not to exceed 180 DME. The HO State-owned stores are counting on a demand for 80,000 of these receivers and 30,000 UKW adapter supers (Vorsatzsuper).
- d. A lengthy discussion followed. Otto stated that the Planning Commission would not finance the UKW adapters, since money had been made available in 1949/51 for developing UKW devices. This statement encountered strong opposition. It was pointed out that in 1949/51 miniature tubes had not existed, and that the owners of old sets should not be excluded from UKW reception. In the postwar period, innumerable sets with sockets for attaching UKW adapters were sold. The UKW adapter was promised with these.

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- e. Six types of medium supers have hitherto been in existence. Reduction to one type would mean too great a gap in both price and performance between the medium and the small and large supers. It was agreed to have two types with short wave, with a real difference in price; class [sic] 300 - 400 DME.
- f. The highest grade super will cost about 800 DME. It should offer all possible technical refinements and operational conveniences.
- g. Viewpoints on the auto super differ. It is a great mistake that the automobile factories, such as the Eisenach Motor Works, do not allow space for a radio on the instrument panel. The Soviet ZIS (motor car) was mentioned as a contrasting example.
- h. It was decided that battery-operated equipment would not be manufactured. Ships on inland waterways and villages without electric power supply would be supplied only with such types as might be produced for export, as in the past.
- i. The present portable super, already shown twice at the Leipzig Fair, is almost ready to appear on the market. There are still some difficulties in connection with the cord for plugging into the public power supply; it has a resistance winding in it, and there are difficulties in electrical and mechanical durability. It was suggested that in the future this set be constructed somewhat larger, and that another even smaller portable super be constructed.
- k. The production of private companies was not considered. It is reported that Niemann-Halle has discontinued its operation.
- l. All suggestions made are merely recommendations and are not binding. For example, the Council for Mutual Assistance (Rat fuer gegenseitige Hilfe) might decide that the large super should be constructed by some other country.

2. Parts

- a. The HO called attention to the need for UKW antennas and flat cables. Because of a lack of the plastic Oppanol, the production of cable at VEB Kabelwerk Vacha has so far not been possible. Other insulating materials have not been successful.
- b. VEB Fernmeldewerk Bad Blankenburg is manufacturing UKW antennas.
- c. The advantages of the ferrite directional antenna were discussed. Its advantages are doubtful, because of the multiple use of so many of the channels. VEB Keramisches Werk Hescho-Kahla has made sample ferrite rods.
- d. In connection with the problem of permeability tuning (Pumpe) versus a variable condenser, it was decided that the former should be used for small and medium instruments, the latter for good instruments. The variable condenser made by VEB Stern-Radio Stassfurt has shown itself to be the best. It was suggested that only this one be built, and that a model with a UKW section should be developed.

3. Loudspeakers

The latest models developed by VEB Funkwerk Dresden (Gommlieh) are reported to have been tested by the Heinrich Hertz Institute, Berlin-Adlershof, and found to have a transmission range from 60 to 17,000 cycles.

4. Use of Maniperm Magnets

- a. Loudspeakers manufactured by the Leipzig Radio Plant have reportedly been criticized because of decreased magnetic strength. It seems possible that these loudspeakers had the proper quality when they passed the testing room, but that the raw materials from Hescho-Kahla were not

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pure. VEB Stern-Radio Sonneberg (formerly EAK - Elektro-Apparate Werke Koeppelsdorf) has detected no change within half a year; with small air gaps, up to 9,300 G /sic/ was maintained. These results were doubted by Dresden. It turned out that Sonneberg had used particularly large rings. The Maniperm material is considered proven, and Hescho-Kahla recommends it for further use.

- b. Stier suggested that all those interested attend a demonstration of the so-called "sound box" used in broadcasting (Dr. Keibs-Tismer-Ledwa design). This design permits a better bass reproduction with reduced amplitude of the vibrations in the loudspeaker membrane, so that electrical amplification of the bass, which often causes overmodulation of the amplifier and of the loudspeaker, can be dispensed with.
 - c. Complaints were made about the poor quality of small condensers. The Buna plant recently ceased to supply polystyrol for German use.
 - d. In 1954, E tubes are to be manufactured only as replacement parts. Only miniature tubes are to be employed for newly developed apparatuses. These tubes are currently being produced in the RFT Werk fuer Fernmeldewesen (OSW-Oberspreewerk) under the direction of Dr. Schiller, chief designer for tube production in the DDR. Some types of tubes are also to be manufactured in Erfurt in the near future.
 - e. Scheurenbrand from Stassfurt is shortly to become chief designer of the RFT.
5. a. In his report, the DIA representative, Knobloch, made the following statements: The exports of the DDR, instead of increasing to 290 percent have fallen off 5 percent. No exports can be made to the People's Democracies (reason not given). Export to the capitalist countries in the Near East is desirable, in order to obtain foreign exchange for importing materials. The attempt to begin negotiations with Egypt was a disgraceful affair. A statement from the Egyptians is at hand; they demand the following: the most modern technological products, resistance to tropical conditions use of tubes common in international usage, five short-wave bands -- at least five tubes -- also battery receivers; UKW is not required; price is not of prime importance. The samples from standard production which were offered were termed /by the Egyptians/ "out of date, useless". The portable super, which has only a medium wave, was turned down merely on the basis of the prospectus.
 - b. The DIA's complaints on the quality of the receivers were energetically denied by the industry. It was termed naive that, without previous consultation, the DIA had attempted to export mass-produced receivers which are being produced with extensive material economies, e.g., cardboard chassis, etc.
 - c. Class I electrolytes are lacking. An order from abroad for two models of one instrument could not be filled, since the production costs could not be financed.
 - d. The industry is not informed of the wishes of foreign countries. It is the business of the DIA to investigate these, since with its present structure, the industry no longer has a sales organization.

6. Trade-Mark (Warenzeichen) Protection

Rudolf discussed the trade-mark situation in foreign countries. East Germany does not belong to the Madrid Union; therefore its trade marks are completely free. In contrast, it was learned from reports of private individuals abroad that all West German products were protected in every way. In the case of photographic lenses, even the mountings are protected. The probable reason that expropriations have not occurred to any large extent is that the materials exported have not been such as to make such measures worthwhile. Foreign countries demand name products; thus "Mende"

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receivers or "Olympia" typewriters are wanted, and "Optima" typewriters are refused, despite the assurance that the latter are just as good.

7. Bless stated in the UKW debate that, according to reports from West Germany the UKW local transmitters would attract a large number of listeners because of the local interest in their programs, sports news, etc. Stier (broadcasting), however, declared that the local programs cannot be counted on, since all programs go out only through the broadcasting station in Berlin-Schoeneweide, Nalepastrasse. In addition, one cannot count on utilization of UKW quality outside of Berlin, since the radio cables so far transmit only 6.4 kilocycles per second.

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